Legislation against tobacco

695. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering all possible options to make legislation against using tobacco *in any* form in the *country;*

(b) if so, the specific time-frame by which anti-tobacco Bill would be introduced in Parliament;

(c) whether the tobacco related diseases which are increasing in the country day by day, have shattered health and economy of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of other steps Government propose to initiate to check its use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Based on community based surveys and medical data available, it is estimated that tobacco is responsible for 800,000 deaths annually in the country and is also responsible for causing diseases like Cancer, Cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases.

While legislation to discourage consumption of tobacco is under consideration of the Government, no specific time frame for its introduction can be given at this juncture.

Complaints of Radiographers *in* Delhi Hospitals

696. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the complaints of Radiographers in Government, Municipal Corporation hospitals in Delhi, which are flouting safety rules;